

REPORT OF NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 16th May 1896.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
		CALCUTTA.			
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Calcutta	5,000		
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	20,000	9th May, 1896.	
3	"Baniya Darpan" ...	Ditto	.....	8th ditto.	
4	"Hitaisi" ...	Ditto	800	12th ditto.	
5	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	8th ditto.	
6	"Kumari Patrika" ...	Ditto	.....	
7	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	2,500	9th ditto.	
8	"Navayuga" ...	Ditto	.....	9th ditto.	
9	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	6th ditto.	
10	"Samay" ...	Ditto	8,000	8th ditto.	
11	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	8,000	9th ditto.	
12	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800	4th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto	About 350		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika." ...	Ditto	1,000	10th to 13th May, 1896.	
3	"Samvad Trabhakar" ...	Ditto	1,250	12th and 14th ditto.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	8th and 11th to 13th May, 1896.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	2,000	8th May, 1896.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	10,000	28th April, 1896.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	5,000		
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Calcutta	.....	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Ditto	310	7th May, 1896.	
2	"General and Gauhariassi" ...	Ditto	330	8th ditto.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	450		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	700		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	About 250	5th May, 1896.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	550	10th ditto.	
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	.....	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	1,145	8th ditto.	
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna	350		

No	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.	
BENGALI.						
Weekly.						
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	826	6th May, 1896.	Only six copies have been issued since the paper was received in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered. This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	200	8th ditto.		
3	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	608			
URIYA.						
ORISSA DIVISION.						
Monthly.						
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	160	.....	
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
3	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	.....		
Weekly.						
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190			
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309			
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	480			
HINDI.						
PATNA DIVISION.						
Monthly.						
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500	April, 1896.		
Weekly.						
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000			
URDU.						
Weekly.						
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500	16th April, 1896.		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	27th ditto.		
BENGALI.						
Weekly.						
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.						
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....	6th May, 1896.	
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	195			
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180			
HINDI.						
Monthly.						
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	500	April, 1896 ...		
BENGALI.						
Fortnightly.						
DACCA DIVISION.						
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	244	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.		
Weekly.						
1	"Charn Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900		4th May, 1896.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400		10th ditto.	
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do. ...	About 440		9th ditto.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ..	240	7th ditto.		

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	11th May, 1896.	
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	700		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120		
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	ASSAM.			
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....	

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 28th April says that England's postponement of the Soudan expedition is due to threats held out by Russia and France, and not to the impracticability of the route for carrying provisions. England is not so foolish as to proclaim an expedition without calculating her profit and loss in the business. It is not statesmanlike, however, to give up a war so boldly declared.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
April 28th, 1896.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Charu Mihir* of the 4th May says that it is no small reproach to the police and the executive in Mymensingh that in not one of the dacoity cases reported week after week in this paper have the offenders been yet traced. Dacoity is still rife in the district, and people have been in consequence seriously alarmed. The District Magistrate should procure the services of able detectives, in order to trace the dacoits, as they cannot, it is clear, be detected by the local police.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 4th, 1896.

3. A correspondent of the same paper says that there are many thieves and *badmashes* in Dubail, in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district. There are also a number of people in the village who have no ostensible means of livelihood, although they live in a style far beyond their means. The authorities can easily ascertain their names, and the police should keep a strict eye upon them. But the local police is not likely to take up the investigation.

CHARU MIHIR.

4. The *Sahachar* of the 6th May has the following:—

Suspicious death of an employé in the Assam Railway.

The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reports that one day two sepoys informed Mr. Baker, Subdivisional Officer of Gungaon, in Assam, that one Bipin Bihari Basu, an employé on the Assam Railway, had died of the effect of the beating he had received at the hands of Mr. Bamford, Assistant Engineer on the line; that on hearing this, Mr. Baker at once started for the place of occurrence, and on arriving there first went to the house of the accused; he took his meal there and then commenced the enquiry; and feeling that he would not be able to finish the enquiry single-handed, he told the residents of the place to help him; that having finished the enquiry in the way he thought best, he, jointly with the Police Superintendent, submitted a report in which he ascribed Bipin's death to the combined effect of a cough brought on by *ganja* smoking and a depressed state of mind caused by the deceased's embezzlement of public money.

SAHACHAR,
May 6th, 1896.

Now, why did not Mr. Baker order some police officer to take up the enquiry instead of himself going all the way to Gungaon, a distance of 16 miles from head-quarters, on foot? And how did Mr. Baker know that Bipin had embezzled public money? If the information was supplied by Mr. Bamford, he should not have accepted it. The most culpable thing, however, that Mr. Baker did was to be a guest at Mr. Bamford's house. Assuming that Mr. Bamford was innocent of the charge which had been brought against him, he was not yet exonerated from it, and the investigating officer should not have accepted his hospitality. Mr. Baker should have brought his food with him, as he knew that he would want it. The consequence of his having first partaken of the accused's hospitality and then commenced the enquiry was that no one ventured to come forward to give evidence against Mr. Bamford. If Mr. Baker had not dined at Mr. Bamford's house, one or two persons, at least, could have been found, who would have at least admitted their acquaintance with Bipin. One Aswini Kumar, a subordinate of Mr. Bamford, alone deposed to the effect that he found Mr. Bamford working and Bipin standing before his table; that on leaving the room, however, he heard Bipin cry, “মা, গেলাম; বাপ, গেলাম;” (O mother, I am done for; O father, I am done for); that Bipin immediately came out of the room and asked him for some water, and having drunk the water lay down, apparently to go to sleep, but was found to have gone to his eternal rest.

All-knowing God alone can say how the poor fellow really came by his death. But Aswini's evidence casts suspicion on Mr. Bamford, and an enquiry ought to be made as to how far this suspicion is well founded. It is not improbable that Mr. Bamford is perfectly innocent. In that case an enquiry is all the more necessary, in order to afford him an opportunity of clearing himself even of this suspicion.

Mr. Baker says that, according to the medical opinion which he consulted on the spot, death might have resulted from cough alone, even if the deceased's physical constitution had not been debilitated by *ganju*. That is perfectly true; death from cough is not an impossibility. But how is Aswini's deposition to be ignored; and how is the fact of the sepoys having taken all the trouble of going sixteen miles to head-quarters to lodge an information against Mr. Bamford to be explained? There was another evidence which would have satisfactorily disposed of the matter, one way or the other; but that evidence Mr. Baker did not take. It is said that Bipin's body was not burnt, but buried. Why, then, did not Mr. Baker have it disinterred and subjected to a *post-mortem* examination, which would have revealed the real cause of the death? Is not Mr. Baker bound to give an explanation of this? He had also received an anonymous letter regarding the occurrence, but he rejected it, although the whole truth might have been brought out by holding an enquiry on the line indicated in that communication.

Mr. Bamford may be perfectly innocent, and everybody would be happy to see him proved guiltless. So far there is nothing against him except suspicion. No positive proof has yet been forthcoming, one way or the other, and so nothing can be said positively against Mr. Bamford. But there is no question that Mr. Baker acted in a most culpable manner.

The wife of the deceased has prayed for a fresh enquiry, and, everything considered, her prayer ought to be granted.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 7th, 1896.

5. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 7th May says that rain-gambling has been commenced in Calcutta with redoubled energy.

Rain-gambling at Calcutta.

Government's silence in the matter constitutes a free permission to all sorts of people to attend the place where the gambling is carried on, and office clerks are seen to join in it. The British Government, which is called a champion of morality, should consider it its duty not to allow its subjects to run into the habit of gambling.

PRATIKAR,
May 8th, 1896.

6. The *Pratikal* of the 8th May is not satisfied with the inquiry which was made into the case of suspicious death in the lock-up of the Manulla Bazar police-station, in Murshidabad. The inquiry has terminated in the

The suspicious death in the Murshidabad police-station.

declaration that the suspicious death was a suicide. One of the constables, who were in charge of the lock-up on the day of the occurrence, has been dismissed on the ground that he fell asleep before delivering his charge to another constable, who came to relieve him just at 12 o'clock in the night. It is alleged that the neglect of duty on the part of this constable gave the prisoner an opportunity to commit suicide. It has, however, transpired that the death took place after 12. If the constable is really guilty, punish him more severely. But it is certainly unfair that a man should be punished simply because it is necessary to hold some one responsible for the suicide of the prisoner, and the guilt cannot be attached to any particular person.

PRATIKAR,

7. The same paper says that it is impossible to exhaust the catalogue of

Mr. Cox, District Superintendent of Police, Monghyr.

Mr. Cox's vagaries. The Sub-Inspector of the Bakhtiarpur outpost, within the Nogra thana, in the Monghyr district, came to pay a visit to the District Superintendent of Police. This Police Sub-Inspector is a passed student of the Patna Police School. Somehow he offended Mr. Cox, who, by way of punishment, made him stand with his face to the wall for two hours. If educated police officers are treated in this way, no educated man will enter the police service.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
May 9th, 1896.

8. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 9th May takes the following from the

A cooly case.

Bankura Darpan:—

On the 8th April last one Ganesh Lohar deposed before the Magistrate of Bankura that on the 1st of the same month, just at night-fall, his wife Kini, aged about fourteen or fifteen, went to the bazar, and

had not since returned; that he searched for her in various places, not excepting the houses of relatives in other villages, but in vain; that when failing to find her he was crying aloud on the 8th April, two neighbours came to him and told him that Niyabi Musalman (a cooly-recruiter) and second Ganesh Lohar had fraudulently sent her to Cachar; that on his lodging this information in the thana, he had been told to come to court. The Magistrate ordered a police investigation, which was made by the daroga of the Sadar thana, where there is a constable, Enayet, who is a brother of the accused Niyabi, in whose cooly depôt he lives. The police said that there was no evidence, and the case was dismissed. If there was no evidence, the dismissal was right. But will not the civilised British Government enquire how one of its subjects disappeared?

9. **Srish Chandra Chakravarti**, of Kishorganj, in the Mymensingh district, writes as follows in the *Sanjivani* of the 9th May:—

Cooly-recruiting abuses.

Fraudulent cooly-recruiting has become pretty frequent of late. On the 14th April I was a passenger on board a cooly steamer. I found a Rajput woman of twenty-five sitting disconsolate and crying in a corner. I understood that she had been fraudulently recruited. I tried to gather from her the particulars of her case, but the recruiters convinced her that I was her enemy, and she refused to take the help I offered her. Babu Prankrishna Acharjya, M.A., M.B., Calcutta, Babu Nilkantha Chatterjee, M.A., B.L., Pleader, Mymensingh, and Pandit Dhirananda Saraswati, Calcutta, were passengers on board the same steamer, and they can bear witness to what I say.

SANJIVANI,
May 9th, 1896.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

10. The *Charu Mihir* of the 4th May has the following:—

Maulvi Azhar, Deputy Magistrate of Mymensingh.

On the 18th April last Babu Ramsundar Sen, of Mymensingh, made a complaint before Babu Umapasanna Guha, Deputy Magistrate, to the effect that during the hearing of his case he had been abused by Babu Jnanendra Nath Guha, mukhtar for the opposite party. Babu Jnanendra Nath also brought a countercharge against Ramsundar Babu for defamation. The two cases were made over to Maulvi Azhar for disposal; and the Maulvi, after having taken the deposition of the complainant alone in each case, decided as follows:—"Sections 500, 504 and section 14, L. P. Act. This case and the counter case are two trumpery cases. What took place in the Court of Babu Umapasanna Guha takes place here every day in any important case. Parties and mukhtars here often get too much indulgence, and escape with impunity; so I think it is too trivial a matter to take action against, in consideration of the circumstances of the case, dismissed under section 203, C. P. C.

"*Jnan Babu's complaint, sections 500 and 504.*—This is also dismissed on the grounds stated in the order of the counter case."

Not to speak of the other Deputy Magistrates, do not the Maulvi's words prove that he, at least, is incapable of maintaining the dignity of his Court? Refusal to punish for contempt of court is a strange decision the Maulvi came to.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 4th, 1896.

11. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 7th May says that a charge under section 468 of the Penal Code having been brought against Shah Zahoor Ahmad, an *amla* in the

The Magistrate of Arrah.

Tauzikhana of the Arrah Collectorate, the local Magistrate refused the application for bail and sent him to *hajrat*. But the accused was enlarged by the Sessions Judge on his furnishing three sureties for Rs. 10,000 each. The Magistrate to whom the order was sent for execution, however, refused to comply with it, unless he had information that the men who stood sureties were men of position and respectability. Perfect lawlessness prevails in Arrah, and justice has fled from the place. Civilians of the lowest grade now-a-days oppress the Indian subjects of the Queen without being taken to task for it by the higher authorities.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
May 7th, 1896.

12. The *Hitavadi* of the 8th May has received various complaints against

Mr. Heard of Deoghar.

Mr. Heard of Deoghar. This officer is said to be in the habit of calling respectable native gentlemen such names as *sala* in open Court. A few days ago, while trying a case in camp at Madhupur, he called a respectable native gentleman *sala* and other names

HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1896.

in the presence of barristers and pleaders. The names of the lawyers who heard the gentleman abused will be mentioned, if necessary.

Though Chairman of the Deoghar Municipality, Mr. Heard hears municipal cases. He also makes over such cases to Honorary Magistrates who are also Municipal Commissioners. What wonder, then, that people should be dissatisfied with the decisions that are passed in such cases? We shall be able to prove, if necessary, that this arrangement leads to failure of justice. If this arrangement is not done away with, we shall have much to say on the subject.

It is stated in some papers that the able doctor of Deoghar, Babu Banikantha Banerji, is going to be transferred on the suspicion that it was he who supplied this paper with information against Mr. Heard. As a matter of fact, however, Banikantha Babu never sent any information to this paper.

HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1896

13. The same paper says that a few days before Babu Banikantha Banerji instituted his case against Nejabet Hossein, the latter had instituted a case of criminal trespass against a local gentleman. But Mr. Heard, who

Mr. Heard in the case against
Nejabet Hossein.

was so anxious to save Nejabet Hossein from a criminal prosecution, did not show the least inclination to act as a peace-maker on that occasion. He did not find in Hem Babu's act "an unhappy occurrence" which had better be "smoothed over." By Mr. Heard's efforts the quarrel between Babu Banikantha and Nejabet Hossein has been settled by the latter apologising for his offence. A settlement of a dispute is a good thing. But the writer cannot praise Mr. Heard for his good offices in this matter, for he is not found much disposed to have other cases settled in the same amicable manner. He has been known to send people to jail for three months for stealing wood worth no more than two pice and for theft of only five annas worth of salt.

HITAVADI.

14. The same paper says that for some reason or other people do not always expect justice from Mr. Lucas, Deputy Magistrate of Narainganj, in the Dacca district. To prevent failure of justice, the High Court has lately transferred five cases from Mr. Lucas's file to those of other Magistrates. A circumstance like this would have led to the dismissal or degradation of a native Magistrate. But Mr. Lucas is a European. Mr. Lucas is also trying his best to promote the sale of stamps. He has, for instance, ruled (1) that in his plaint a complainant should state only the section under which his complaint is made and the names of the witnesses without giving any account of his case; (2) that the fee for summonses against the accused or the witnesses should be paid on the day the case is instituted, or before 12 o'clock on the day following; (3) that in the event of delay in depositing fees the complainant should make an application on a stamped paper of the value of eight annas, and at the same time file an affidavit; and (4) that if the accused or any witness fails, on receipt of summons, to attend, but appears before a warrant is issued, he should make an application on a stamped paper of the value of eight annas showing cause why he should not be prosecuted under section 174 of the Indian Penal Code, and at the same time make an affidavit.

The first rule will allow the complainant an opportunity of getting up a case which he could not have if he were required to describe his whole case in his plaint. It is not easy to see what purpose the second rule will serve except filling the pockets of Government. Many people compromise cases after filing plaints, and this occasions loss to Government, which is thus deprived of the money it would receive on account of summonses. The benefit of the third rule is not at all clear. If any mischief results from not depositing fees at the time of filing a plaint, how is that mischief to be remedied by the presentation of an application on a stamped paper and of an affidavit? The fourth rule is clearly absurd. It requires the accused to apply for his own trial on a stamped paper of the value of eight annas and also to make an affidavit. Nothing could be more ridiculous than this.

HITAVADI.

15. The same paper says that Hari Charan Basu, whom Babu Upendra Nath Gupta, Deputy Magistrate of Barasat, sentenced to ten days' simple imprisonment on a charge of theft, and who has been enlarged on bail (see Report on Native Papers of 9th May 1896, paragraph 12), has now made an application to the Subdivisional Officer of Barasat, asking him to enquire why, though sentenced

Babu Upendra Nath Gupta,
Deputy Magistrate of Barasat.

to simple imprisonment, he was sent to jail with order for rigorous imprisonment, and why he has already been made to undergo such imprisonment for four days and to pass such orders in his case as may be deemed fit. The writer will say nothing on this point now beyond requesting the authorities to enquire whether Babu Upendra Nath is not a native of Garifa, within the same subdivision. It is also said that since the publication of the article against him in this paper, Upendra Babu has ordered none but parties and their pleaders and witnesses to be allowed to be present in his Court. If this is true, the authorities should promptly attend to the proceedings of this officer.

16. The same paper has the following:—

Maulvi Fazlul Karim.

It is not our intention to repeat here our charges against Maulvi Fazlul Karim. But we must say something about his relinquishment of 3,000 bighas of Government land, and about the enquiry that is being made into the matter. A correspondent writing to us from Dacca makes the following pertinent observations on the point:—

HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1896.

Sir,

The Board have recently asked the Commissioner of the Dacca Division to report if Kafiluddin Ahmad Chowdhury is the husband of the Maulvi's wife's sister, with the remark that if the Maulvi was so related he should not have been allowed to settle about the relinquishment. As Government cannot enter into those lands without a civil suit—possession having already been given up in favour of Kafiluddin—we cannot understand how far the enquiry about relationship which the Maulvi admitted on two occasions will help Government; but, if we are excused the impertinence of differing from the finding of the Hon'ble Board composed of the jewels of the most distinguished service in the world, do you not think that an enquiry should be made with the map which must have been prepared previous to relinquishment to bring out the real facts of the case—at least for the sake of Government interest? Surveying is based on Mathematics, which does not fortunately depend on interpretation, and if the Maulvi has falsified public records by a misleading map which presupposes such alleged relinquishment, cannot the matter be correctly traced out by comparing the map on the ground or, as a preliminary, by placing a tracing of it over dearah map of the locality? And should not this be done at least to clear up the character of an officer of the Maulvi's standing—against one of the most serious charges that can be brought against a Government officer, and protect him from almost daily attacks of the people and the press? If the comparison shows that the Maulvi has shown undue favour to his alleged relation and an enquiry into his conduct is held, it might then be useful to trace out relationship, but before that we cannot understand of what earthly help the enquiry will be other than a ground for getting off the Maulvi with a "severe censure" for not having reported relationship before!

And is the Maulvi entirely to blame in the matter if the relinquishment, as alleged, be a fact? What was the Collector doing when he sanctioned the relinquishment of such a considerable area? Was it not his clear duty to go into the facts of the case, look into the evidence recorded, if any, about possession, and compare the ambit plan of the Subdivisional Officer with the dearah map, which is the basis of almost all Government claims to proprietorship about here? The last and simplest and thoroughly efficacious check was essentially necessary, but it was neglected through indifference or incompetency of the Collector's subordinate staff who are usually entrusted with such work.

VERITAS.

We do not know whether our correspondent's suggestions will be adopted. We are, however, sure that if a public enquiry is not made into the matter, there will be a deep stain cast on the English administration. Not one of our charges against the Maulvi is trivial or unimportant, and we are in a position to prove every one of them. We have evidence of his abusing people, of his impressing labourers, of his making prisoners work in his house and his abducting girls. But the Maulvi has not the courage to prosecute us, for he is terribly afraid of a public exposure. We will try our best to have the matter carried before a law

court. We will not stop till the people of Madaripur have forgotten the oppressions committed by the Maulvi.

SANJIVANI,
May 9th, 1896.

17. Eurasians and domiciled Europeans, observes the *Sanjivani* of the 9th May, were not so long willing to enter the subordinate judicial and executive services, but are of late entering these services in increasing numbers. It is certainly objectionable that these men should claim the exclusive privileges of both natives and Europeans. They try to pass for Europeans when they have to claim compensation allowance, while in entering the subordinate judicial and executive services they try to pass for domiciled Europeans. This, certainly, is not fair.

Now that Europeans and Eurasians are entering the subordinate judicial and executive services, their incorruptibility is in danger. Subordinate judicial and executive officers are not highly paid according to the European standard. A native gentleman with his few wants and frugal habits is passing rich with two or three hundred rupees a month. But that pay will not enable a Eurasian or a European even to keep his body and soul together; his wants are too many, his expenses so reckless, his habits so notoriously extravagant. Such an officer has a great temptation to take bribe; he is helplessly open to corruption. Already a few such officers have been suspected of corruption, and one of them has been dismissed for taking bribes. Few, if any, Native Deputy Magistrates or Munsifs have so far been charged with corruption or found guilty of it.

Necessity is the mother of invention, and some of these European Deputy Magistrates and Munsifs have invented a new means of eking out their small salaries. The people of this country have become so much demoralised that they will not spend anything for a charitable purpose unless some European officers are connected with the matter. The millionaires of the country will not spend a pice to remove the distress of the people, but let some Government official of rank open a fund, and money will flow in from them. It is not certainly objectionable that European officials should take a leading part in a charitable movement, especially when their connection with it is sure to make it a success. But the misfortune is that some unscrupulous European or Eurasian Deputy Magistrates are already taking advantage of the weakness of the people and of their confidence in European integrity. What is now taking place in some places in the name of public charity is something like this: A Subdivisional Officer—a Eurasian or European Deputy Magistrate of course—opens a charitable fund. Subscriptions flow in, and those who handsomely subscribe are admitted to the presence of the Subdivisional Officer, and are granted the special privilege of talking to him and, in course of the conversation, of knowing from him how their cases under trial in his court stand. The impartiality and integrity of British courts of justice are thus being undermined.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
May 13th, 1896.

18. A Burdwan correspondent of the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 13th May complains that Mr. Fisher, Magistrate of Burdwan, has stopped the salaries of all amla in the *tauzi* department of the Road Cess Office for failure to submit the quarterly return for January 1896 in time, and ordered them to attend office from 6 to 8 A.M. and from 11 A.M. to 6 P.M. every day. The fact is that the work of the Road Cess Office has become too heavy for the existing staff.

Orders similar to those passed upon road cess *tauzi* clerks have also been passed upon the *tauzi* section of the Land Revenue Department.

How will these poor people live if they do not get their salaries till they have submitted not only the January return but the March return and the annual balance sheet as well?

(d)—Education.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
May 10th, 1896.

19. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 10th May says that when science cannot be taught without the aid of experimental illustration, and when for want of competent teachers and the necessary apparatus no educational institution in this province except the Medical College and, to a certain extent, the Presidency College, can teach science properly, it has been a mistake to

introduce science in the training schools. Who will not laugh to hear that a teacher on a hundred rupees a month will teach science? The little knowledge of science which is now imparted in the schools and colleges is imparted entirely by means of books and is learnt wholly by rote. This is not science-teaching in the proper sense of the word. It leaves students as ignorant as ever. Nay, an imperfect knowledge of science is worse than no knowledge of it. For, besides the loss of time entailed in its acquirement, it fills the mind of the student with wrong notions, which do harm not only to himself but to the world at large. The *Pioneer* agrees with the writer in this view, and has explained its opinion with illustrations. In Bengal the harm done by an imperfect knowledge of science is seen at every turn. It is, indeed, nothing but waste of time to teach science when neither the necessary apparatus nor competent teachers are available. The time which is thus wasted can be more usefully devoted to imparting a thorough knowledge of literature, history and other allied subjects. Let the Medical College alone teach science; there is no need of making a show of science-teaching in any other institution. How many of the large number of B.A.'s. who every year come out of the University possess a true knowledge of science? And for the matter of that, how many examiners are there who can conduct an experimental examination either in chemistry or in any other branch of physical science?

20. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 11th May says that the guilt of the University chaprasis being established, Mr. Griffiths also becomes guilty. And Mr. Griffiths' guilt establishes the guilt of Sir Alfred Croft. Truth alone triumphs, and not falsehood.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
May 11th, 1896.

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

21. *Al Punch* of the 16th April disapproves of the post of Inspector of the Patna Municipality, which has been lately created at the suggestion of Mr. Inglis.

AL PUNCH,
April 16th, 1896.

22. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 4th May complains of a heavy increase of assessments in the Kishorganj Municipality, in the Mymensingh district. Numerous objections are being sent in every day against the assessments. The proposal of a latrine-tax has also caused anxiety to the rate-payers.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 4th, 1896.

Did the Municipality take any steps when some days ago the rate-payers were suffering from water-scarcity, and could not go out of their houses for the clouds of dust which enveloped the town?

23. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 5th May reports water-scarcity in Gopinathpur, in the Burdwan district. The village people are fetching water from a tank about three miles off.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
May 5th, 1896.

In Agarpara, Kamarhati and the neighbouring villages scarcity of water is being keenly felt. Water is being carted into the interior from the Hooghly. Cholera is decimating the people, and a panic has seized them. After the great famine of 1870 (1276 B.S.), the distress of the people was never greater than it is now.

The case is no better in Baghnapura, a village in the Burdwan district. The two tanks which supply the inhabitants with water are being polluted by those who use their water. The authorities should prevent this, and dig one or two wells for the immediate relief of the villagers.

24. The *Sahachar* of the 6th May has the following:—

SAHACHAR,
May 6th, 1896.

The Magistrates' reports on water-scarcity. On the 20th April last, the Lieutenant-Governor sent an order from Darjeeling to all District Magistrates, asking them to submit reports on water-scarcity in their respective districts. Within three or four days Government received the reports called for, and in the course of a week from the date of the order those reports were published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. The reports almost unanimously deny the existence of water-scarcity, and, therefore, of any cause for public alarm on that score. But, considering the short space of time within which the reports were prepared, the presumption is that they

are not correct and acceptable. Their materials must have been collected, in almost every case, within forty-eight hours. A district in this country is not a small place like Calcutta; it contains five or six subdivisions, each subdivision containing a number of thanas and outposts, and each thana or outpost containing from five to six hundred villages. So, consider how many villages a district must contain. An enquiry in regard to so wide an area must take at least a fortnight. The District Magistrates probably wrote their reports upon materials which were in their hands before their receipt of the Government order, and it is accordingly seen that some of them are based on information which is erroneous. The Magistrate of Burdwan, for instance, says that nowhere in his district has a man to go more than a mile for water. But there are certainly places in the interior of the district where people have to bring their water from a longer distance than that. Other Magistrates admit that there has been no rainfall in their districts within the last eight or nine months, and all tanks, *bils* and *khals* have therefore dried up, but say in the same breath that there is no water-scarcity. Can such reports satisfy anybody that no steps to supply water to villagers are needful? However, the weekly reports which the Magistrates have been asked to submit will certainly bring out the truth.

HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1896.

25. The *Hitavadi* of the 8th May has the following:—

The Magistrates on the water-scarcity.

It is no small good fortune that the civilian District Magistrates of Bengal have succeeded, as it were by a spell, in *pooh-poohing* a water-scarcity which was being felt throughout the country, which had killed hundreds by engendering diseases, which had produced wailing on all sides, and which had made even the ruler of Bengal uneasy on his throne. It was on the 20th April last that a circular was issued from Darjeeling to all District Magistrates calling upon them to report on the extent of water-scarcity in their respective districts and on the means that might be adopted to remove it. But a District Magistrate is nothing if not omniscient, and he has all the affairs of his district at his fingers' ends. The District Magistrates did not therefore fail to send in their reports within three or four days of the receipt of the circular. Let the reader remember that a Bengal district is not a very small area, consisting as it does of five subdivisions divided into five thanas or outposts each, and a thana or outpost containing from 500 to 1,000 villages. But what of that? A civilian will disgrace himself if he has not the whole universe at his fingers' ends and if he cannot cope with a providential visitation.

If the reader reads the Magistrates' reports he will see what knowledge they have of the affairs of their own districts. The reports bristle with errors, but we have not space to expose all of them. A few typical examples will suffice.

Almost every Magistrate has admitted that there has been no rain during the last six or seven months, and that *khals*, *bils*, and tanks have dried up, and yet, strangely enough, they deny that there is any water-scarcity.

Almost every Magistrate has accused the people of the province of want of self-help, and some of them have taken Mr. Westmacott's line. One District Magistrate has unblushingly declared that with a view to punish the people of a particular village, he has, at this time of terrible water-scarcity, rejected their prayer for the construction of a dam to keep in water.

The Magistrate of Nadia writes:—

"I do not consider that the state of affairs at present is so grave as to give rise to any anxiety. There are five big rivers, which still contain sufficient water for all villages within two or three miles of each of their banks, and there are a good many tanks and khals scattered over the country which have not yet run dry."

But of these five rivers four are situated near the frontiers of the district, and are thus far from the villages in the interior, which are certainly very much more numerous than villages otherwise situated. If the Magistrate had seen Jayrampur, Loknathpur, Kadirpur, Dosta, Santoshpur, Suvarnapur, Habipur, Panpara, Gazipur, Chakdura, Laoyapara, Musenda, Anstala, Tarapur, Raghabpur, Simla, Nobla, Malipat, Majde, Rajapur, Kalaighata, Bhatiangola

and other villages with his own eyes, he could not have said that there was no reason for alarm.

There is, in fact, great scarcity of water in many parts of Bengal. We supplicate the Magistrates with joined hands to see their districts with their own eyes. They will fail to do their duty if they do not try their best to remove water-scarcity at a time when people are dying for want of water. Let them inform Government of the real state of things and ask it for help. Let them also appeal to rich people. There is no foundation for the charge of want of self-help which they have brought against the people. Who is there that will rather die of thirst than make an effort to procure water? Let the Magistrates show the people how they are to act in this crisis. What will the people think of Government if, after having squandered the road cess money, it remains content with simply advising the people to help themselves?

26. An eye-witness writes in the same paper to say that he found the cattle-pound at Inchhura, in the Hooghly district, so dilapidated as to be completely exposed to sun and rain, and that he found no food or water placed before the impounded cattle.

The cattle-pound at Inchhura in the Hooghly district.

HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1896.

27. The *Pratihar* of the 8th May has the following:—

The official version of the water-scarcity in the mufassal.

The people of Bengal have long been suffering from scarcity of food, and they have gradually become accustomed to starvation. For some time agitation waxed hot over scarcity of food, but now that it has become chronic, the ardour of the agitator has cooled down, and he has now directed his guns in another direction. Scarcity of water has now become the subject of agitation. Scarcity of water is a new want, it is a new grievance; it is perhaps more keenly felt than scarcity of food. God has made water a free gift of nature. It is in one sense within the reach of one and all. It can be had from underneath the earth. Yet the people of Bengal are keenly suffering from a scarcity of this article. The people who boast that they have come to India from beyond miles and miles of land and water with the sacred mission of protecting the life and property of the helpless Indian people have done absolutely nothing to remove their water-scarcity. The agitator, whose sole weapon is the gift of the gab, is waxing hot and foaming at the mouth in writing and speaking about the sore distress of the people. Fortunately, however, a sympathetic ruler like Sir Alexander Mackenzie is now at the head of the Government. The cry of the suffering millions moved him, and they got from him kind words, if not anything else. The Lieutenant-Governor called upon all District Magistrates to take speedy steps to remove the distress of the people and to at once report on the condition of water-supply in the mufassal. The district authorities were prompt with a vengeance, and in a week they finished both enquiry and report. They tried to make out that water-scarcity in the mufassal was far from being so keenly felt as it was represented to be. The panic was groundless. There was want of water in some places owing to the failure of the rains, but scarcity of water of a serious nature there was nowhere in the country. The people are agitating—the Lieutenant-Governor himself is exhorting the zamindars to dig tanks and wells, but the district authorities rush in and say that there is absolutely no ground for apprehension—there is water-scarcity nowhere in the country!

The fact, however, is—and there is no denying it—that there is scarcity of water in the country. This scarcity of water has not come all of a sudden. Rainfall has not been satisfactory for the last few years. The rivers and canals have been silting up, and tanks and wells have been drying up under the scorching rays of the sun. The old tanks and wells lie unrepaired and are not re-excavated and new ones have not taken their place. The source of charity has dried up with the sources of water.

The thing is that the distress of the people is very great. If the country had been under a native administration, the scarcity of water would have long before been removed. A native Government could not have certainly remained satisfied with issuing circulars and writing resolutions. Under native rule no Divisional-Commissioner would have been forthcoming, preaching self-help at a time when the people were in dire distress and in a helpless condition. Agitation and exhortation alone will not do. Let the Government set an

PRATIKAR,
May 8th, 1896.

example, let it also encourage private individuals to dig tanks and wells by honouring them with titles. Let not the road cess be entirely diverted from its original purpose. Let not the surplus revenue be spent wholesale on frontier expeditions and frontier fortifications. Let a portion of it at least be spent on the improvement of water-supply in the mufassal. Loud is the cry for water. Let it not be scouted as a groundless panic. It is a pity that the Government should remain so indifferent to the sufferings of the people. If Sir Alexander Mackenzie had not been the ruler of Bengal, we would not have even heard a few words of comfort.

The Magistrate of Murshidabad has reported that there is no scarcity of water in his district. We do not know on what lines his enquiry was conducted, but we are certain that if he had taken the trouble to make a proper enquiry, he would have found out scarcity of water in almost every village in the Murshidabad district. The well-to-do have sunk wells in their houses, and their suffering may not be very great, but the distress of the poor people is almost heart-rending, and the suffering among cattle is simply indescribable. If the Magistrate wanted reliable information he could call upon the village *panchyats* to report on the condition of water-supply in each village. This would have laid his doubts at rest. It is not a sound policy in this country to infer anything about the condition of the people from petitions and memorials submitted by them. The ignorant village people of India have not yet learnt to appreciate the value of such documents. To submit petitions and memorials is a costly, and often a troublesome, affair. But if the people knew that they would be likely to bear fruit, they would petition and memorialise the Government with a vengeance, and petitions would come in shoals.

Let the district authorities say what they may, there is no blinking the fact that in every summer there prevails widespread scarcity of water throughout the country. There is no remedying this evil except by periodically re-excavating old tanks and wells. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has entitled himself to the gratitude of the people by exerting himself in the direction of removing water-scarcity. Let His Honour make water-scarcity an impossibility by providing for the digging of tanks and wells.

SAMAY,
May 8th, 1896.

28. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 8th May complains that there is great scarcity of water in Panchla, a village in the Howrah district. Want of drinkable water has led to a severe outbreak of cholera. Fire also is breaking out here and there, but it cannot be put down for want of water. The people of the village are extremely illiterate and ignorant, and cannot represent their grievances to the Government. The authorities should dig tanks in the village. Two tanks—one near the *haut* and another at Ulumuth—are urgently needed. A tank is also badly wanted in the Basudeb *chuk*. The District Boards should not depend upon the police in selecting sites for these tanks.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
May 8th, 1896.

29. The *Education Gazette* of the 8th May suggests that the Government should call upon the district authorities to submit reports in June, showing how far District Boards as well as private persons provide for water-supply in the mufassal up to that time. This will enable the Government to form some idea of what District Boards can do in the matter of water-supply, at the same time that it will make the latter push on the digging of tanks and wells.

BANGAVASI,
May 9th, 1896.

30. The district authorities, observes the *Bangavasi* of the 9th May, have given a prompt reply to the Lieutenant-Governor's circular on water-scarcity. They report that there is want of water in some parts of the country, but scarcity of water is not so keenly felt as it is said to be. Steps are being taken to provide for water-supply. It is very easy to show on paper that steps are being taken to remove water-scarcity, but it is not half so easy to really remove it. One hundred rupees for water-supply in a thana can do no substantial good. There are in a thana at least thirty villages embracing an area of no less than fourteen or fifteen miles. With one hundred rupees you cannot dig more than six or seven wells. What can six or seven wells do for thirty villages?

31. A correspondent writes in the same paper that there is great scarcity of water in Mahajanpur, a village in the Nadia district. Even the Bhairav has dried up. Epidemics have broken out. Another correspondent writes that scarcity of water is very keenly felt in Bholahat, in the Malda district, and many other neighbouring villages, such as Khalimpur, Gohailbari, Suranpur, Radhanagar, Jhaubala and Dararpur. There is, writes another correspondent, only one tank in Ranaghat, in the Nadia district, which contains water, and that water is unfit for use. Scarcity of water is, therefore, keenly felt in this place. The case is no better, complains a correspondent from Saithe, in the Burdwan district, in several villages there, the distress of the people being very great in Nasigram, Barhabaloon, Kubajpur, Kurman and some other adjoining villages.

BANGAVASI,
May 9th, 1896.

32. Inscrutable are the ways of the Calcutta Municipality, observes the *Sanjivani* of the 9th May. Five years ago, on the recommendation of the Government, it resolved to pay eight thousand rupees a year towards the maintenance of the Calcutta Public Library. There arose, however, a difference between the Commissioners and the Trustees of the Library, and the Municipality reduced its grant to four thousand rupees a year. This year it has still further curtailed its grant, and has reduced it to two thousand rupees a year. It is impossible to keep up the library at two thousand rupees a year. If the Calcutta Municipality is not in a position to substantially help the library, let it better stop the grant altogether. Two thousand rupees a year paid towards the maintenance of the Calcutta Public Library is so much money thrown away. The money of the poor rate-payers should not be wasted in this way.

SANJIVANI,
May 9th, 1896.

33. The same paper complains that there is great scarcity of water in the Bagnan *thana* in the Ulubaria subdivision of the Howrah district. The people are drinking muddy, polluted water and dying of cholera. There has been a serious outbreak of cholera among the coolies working on the Cuttack-Midnapore Railway. Bagnan is watered on the east by the Damodar and on the west by the Rupnarain, and it may appear as strange that there should be scarcity of water in its interior. The fact is that the mouth of the channel through which water flowed from the Damodar into the interior of the place was stopped with a *bandh* some ten years ago, and the consequence has been that not only do the people of Bagnan suffer from scarcity of water, but great injury has been done to agriculture. The *jalas* of Sitalpur, Chandrapur, Khalarh, Rusti and Athila, hitherto most fertile lands, have suffered the most in consequence. The people of Bagnan and the Bagnan branch of the Indian Association have, for the last six years, tried their best to move the authorities, but in vain. It is to be hoped, however, that the Lieutenant-Governor will take pity on the suffering people, and order the mouth of the channel to be opened, and thereby remove their distress. Poor as they are, they are willing to bear a portion of the cost. Maharaja Durgacharan Law and Rai Lalit Mohan Singh, Bahadur, are the zamindars of Bagnan. It is expected that they too will not remain indifferent to the sufferings of the people.

SANJIVANI.

34. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 10th May writes as follows :—
We cannot say that scarcity of water is felt equally keenly in all parts of the country. In places where there is no river or canal, people dig tanks and wells and make provision for water-supply. In these places water-scarcity is felt, but not so keenly as in places situated on the banks of a silted-up river or canal. A tract of country in Dacca which was once very prosperous has become almost depopulated, in consequence of the silting up of a river which flows through it. In the west of Dacca, a small river called the Kantapati or the Ichhamati flows through the Jafarganj, Harirampur, Manikganj, Nawabganj and Srinagar *thanas*. These places were once very prosperous, but they have now been turned almost into deserts. The Ichhamati has silted up; its mouth has become obstructed. During eight months in the year it contains muddy and polluted water, the use of which leads to the outbreak of epidemics. Since 1269 (B.S.), (1863) epidemic after epidemic has carried away about ninety per cent. of the population. You will not get more than

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 10th, 1896.

100 individuals in a village, which was formerly peopled by no less than 1,000 souls. The few who are still alive are dragging on a miserable existence. The people have grown unaccustomed to the digging of tanks and wells, and have not the means to bear its cost. There are not also rich zamindars in these places in a position to dig tanks and wells for the benefit of the people.

The only means, therefore, of saving the lives of the people of these places is to dredge the Ichhamati and open up its mouth. This will be neither very costly, nor impracticable. If only two miles of the river from the mouth be excavated fifteen feet deep, it will receive its supply of water all the year round from the Jabuna. The people of these places every year pay about Rs. 40,000 in the shape of road and public works cesses, of which Rs. 16,742 annually go to the Dacca District Board. If the Board spends only Rs. 16,000 on the dredging of the river, it will save the lives of thousands of people. But instead of doing that it is making a road through the forests of Bhawal. We give the Board timely warning. If it goes on in this way neglecting its clear duty, it will be speedily brought to book by the Government. It will be compelled to refund to Manikganj the money realised from that subdivision, but spent for the benefit of other subdivisions. The people have been, for the last few years, petitioning and petitioning the Government for the dredging of the Ichhamati, but in vain. Lately, several petitions have been sent to the Dacca District Board. It is to be hoped that this time the prayer of the people will be granted.

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 10th, 1896.

35. The same paper condemns the Chairman of the Dacca Municipality for spending municipal money in conducting the prosecution of the police charged with assault by the municipal *mehlers*. It was through the fault of these *mehlers* that the shed built for them, at the public expense, was burnt down, and it will have to be rebuilt at the cost of the public. The Chairman has not realised damages from the offending *mehlers*, but has, on the contrary, spent municipal money in prosecuting the police which did yeoman's service in putting down the fire and preventing it from spreading.

CHINSURA VARTA-
VAHA,
May 10th, 1896.

36. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 10th May writes as follows:—

Water-scarcity.

We cannot say that the Government is totally indifferent to the distress of the people. It has done all that paper and ink can do. It has issued circulars. It is publishing resolution after resolution on water-scarcity in the *Calcutta Gazette*. It has called upon the Commissioners of Divisions to pay close attention to the water-supply in the country. It has exhorted the zamindars to dig tanks and wells for the good of their raiyats. It has urged the District Boards to take immediate measures to remove water-scarcity. It has done all this, but nothing more. Water-scarcity has not been removed, and the distress of the people remains undiminished. Public money is being spent, somewhat reluctantly, on the improvement of water-supply, but it is not being judiciously spent. There seems to be no escape for the suffering millions except in death. You can form some idea of the distress of the people only if you keep a proper account of the number of persons who are actually dying from scarcity of water. The source of charity has dried up in the country. People no longer look upon the digging of tanks and wells as a meritorious act. English education has spoiled us all. *Satwik dan*, i.e., disinterested charity, no longer exists in the country. What the rich now give away they give away, not so much for the good of the people as for name and fame. The Babus have given up celebrating *pujas* and performing *sradhhs*. The utmost that they do is to pay a subscription now and then to the District Charitable Society. A European beggar, in decent clothes, will excite their pity more than a ragged native for whom they have nothing better than kicks to spare. It is true that our resources have been crippled, but it is idle to say that we have not yet means to do something for the good of our countrymen. Where there is a will there is a way.

While the people appear helpless and indifferent, the district authorities are trying to prove that there is no scarcity of water in the country. It is upon these men that the lives of millions of people depend! Is then scarcity of water a myth? Is the cry for water a sham cry? It is impossible to

sufficiently admire the conduct of these men. We recommend that the Lieutenant-Governor should reward these dutiful public servants for their valuable—indeed valuable—services.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 4th, 1896.

37. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 4th May says that for the convenience of the public a road from Kapasatia to Bajitpur, in the Kishorganj subdivision of the Mymensingh district, has become a great necessity.

Wanted a road in the Mymensingh district.

Some five or six years ago, at the instance of Babu Chandra Kisor Rai, a member of the Local Board, the track of a road was laid, but nothing has since been done to have a road constructed. The raiyats and talukdars, through whose lands the track was carried, have had to keep the lands uncultivated, and have thus silently suffered much loss. If the idea of a road has been given up, then these men should be allowed to cultivate their lands.

38. Referring to the recent cases of violence used towards Hindu females in railway trains in Madras, Lahore and Northern Bengal, the *Vikrampur* of the 7th May writes as follows:—

VIKRAMPUR,
May 7th, 1896.

Outrage upon female modesty in railway trains.

We would warn the Railway authorities to guard against such outrages in future. Their repetition will not only bring discredit upon railway administrations, but seriously affect their profits. Hindu women, who can give their lives in order to defend their chastity, will give up railway travelling altogether although other modes of journey may cause them greater hardship.

Government, too, is to be asked to take more effective measures for the punishment of the rogues who commit outrage upon women in railway trains. The punishments which have been dealt out in the recent cases of this kind are quite inadequate from a Hindu point of view, and there is no one else to whom the Hindus can look up for redress, if Government does not listen to their complaints.

Let the English enjoy all the riches of their Indian subjects, and all the luxuries which India's wealth can procure. The Indians will not grudge them that. But they will not be able to hear of any destruction of their caste, religion and honour by the English. The Musalman rulers gave proof of large-mindedness in a thousand matters. They admitted Hindus to high posts, as largely as, if not more largely than, the Musalmans. They delegated all the highest powers of the ruler to the Hindus, and at the same time felt no desire to do anything that might destroy the national power of the Hindus. That with all this large-heartedness the Musalman rulers failed to secure the admiration of their Hindu subjects was only because some among them made themselves despicable by dishonouring Hindu women. Hindu women love virtue more than life itself, and the Musalman rulers were hated by their Hindu subjects because they cared not to protect the virtue of their women. Think well and carefully, and the history of India will tell you most clearly that it was this Hindu hatred that was the cause of the downfall of the Musalman Empire.

HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1896.

39. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 8th May fears that the Sitarampur outrage case has been hushed up, for nothing more is heard about it. A passenger,

The Sitarampur outrage case.

Babu Kiranchandra De, left two rupees with the booking clerk for sending a private telegraphic message to the Traffic Manager at the Dhanbad station reporting to him the case. The message was sent, but the booking clerk was suspended for having sent it. On receipt of the telegram, the Traffic Manager left for Sitarampur, but the station-master of Sitarampur met him at Barakar on the way, and by what he said there induced the former to return without coming to Sitarampur.

Hearing that a telegram had been sent, the Babus who had violated the woman entreated her not to complain against them. Without heeding their entreaties the woman complained to the station-master. But as the station-master of Sitarampur does not understand a word of Bengali, one of those who had violated the woman explained to him in English the woman's complaint. One of the offenders put the woman in the compartment next to the mail van,

and the station-master whispered something in the guard's ear. The woman was bound for Dhanbad, but she was set down at Barakar and detained there till the Traffic Manager came. What happened there has already been related. Many respectable people living near the Sitarampur station are aware of this outrage. An enquiry will bring all the facts to light.

The Editor regrets in this connection that the Traffic Department of the East Indian Railway should attempt to deny that there was any outrage and thus ignore the resolution of the Government of India as well as the Agent's circular about the protection of female passengers. It is said that the woman has been reported to be a prostitute. The Editor will not stop so long as a proper enquiry is not made into the matter. He little thought that Colonel Gardiner's instructions would be neglected in this way even before that officer had left India.

(h).—General.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
April 28th, 1896.

40. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 28th April says that patwaris in the

The patwaris in the Panjab and
in the North-Western Provinces.

Panjab and the North-Western Provinces are required to perform all sorts of duties imposed upon them by the local officers and the police, and

in some cases it takes them full twenty-four hours to finish one piece of work thus imposed. These officers are forced to keep their wives with them, and are not allowed to part with them without the sanction of their Labribdar. But they are very poorly paid, their salary in no case amounting to more than Rs. 15 a month. It is strange that the touring officer should first of all enquire if the *patwari* of the place he comes to keeps his wife with him.

41. The *Charu Mihir* of the 4th May writes as follows:—

CHARU MIHIR,
May 4th, 1896.

Government's disregard for
native public opinion.

It is unfortunate for us that the Government is day by day losing touch with the popular opinion of the country, and pays no heed to it in much

that it does. The Legislature of the country is incessantly at work, either amending existing laws or making new ones without the smallest necessity. But the opinion of the people is seldom consulted, and their wants are seldom noticed. As a matter of fact, Government often remains indifferent to what the country wants, and is very attentive to what the country does not want. Such disregard of public opinion would not be tolerated for a moment in England.

We cannot often penetrate the secret motives of Government. For years past Bengal has been ringing with cries of water-scarcity, the chief cause of the prevalence of cholera and malaria in these provinces. But it is only lately that Sir Alexander has recognised the sufferings arising therefrom. Though the question of water supply and its relation to cholera and malaria were several times discussed during Sir Charles Elliott's time, that Lieutenant-Governor completely forgot the question when introducing his Sanitary Drainage Bill in the Council. The whole province clearly and distinctly stated its opinion on that occasion; the native press and the public associations, too, proved by unanswerable arguments the necessity of water supply in preference to improved drainage, but Sir Charles Elliott was not to be moved. He slighted the protest of the people, and passed a measure for improved drainage, which was not wanted by the people and about whose usefulness eminent and experienced medical men are still divided. But such disregard of native public opinion cannot be productive of good. It is fomenting discontent in the country. Government may now disregard such discontent, but public opinion in India will not be always weak. We, therefore, fully expect that, willingly or unwillingly, Government will one day give due attention to popular opinion in India.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
May 9th, 1896.

42. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 9th May has the following:—

Punkha for European soldiers.

There is nothing to wonder at in the Government's writing off Rs. 25,000 to make pankha provision for the European troops garrisoned at Allahabad, Benares and Dinapore, as the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says India exists for the enjoyment of white men. The people of India do not get two full meals a day, and thousands among them are dying for want of food, and they are all wailing for want of drinking water. But Government does not care for all this. It has

no ear to hear the wails of a thirsty and starving people, but it can spend money like water for the comfort of white soldiers so low and poor as to have even no hearth and home in their own country. There is no want of money to supply such men with luxury. Government feels pinched only when it has to spend money for those who can say that this country and its money are theirs.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

43. The *Charu Mihir* of the 4th May writes as follows on the Estates Partition Bill:—

CHARU MIHIR,
May 4th, 1896.

The Estates Partition Bill. This Bill, instead of simplifying the partition procedure, will create many difficulties, the contemplation of which has already filled poor and petty zamindars with anxiety. It is not just to curtail the rights of the zamindars by putting a limit to the partibility of an estate, when no limit was set upon land revenue at the time of the Permanent Settlement. Every piece of land has its value, which is increased and not diminished by partition; and an estate, therefore, never becomes incapable of paying its own revenue by separation from the parent estate. Great inconvenience is felt by petty co-sharers in a large undivided estate in collecting rents, keeping accounts, cultivating or leasing out lands. The raiyats, too, of such an estate feel no little inconvenience in living under a number of zamindars. The existing *butwara* system has, to a great extent, removed these disadvantages. The necessity of keeping a separate revenue account for each of the estates into which a larger estate is divided has been referred to as a disadvantage of the present system, on account of its entailing additional expense and trouble upon Government. But when sections 10 and 11 of Act XI of 1859 and section 70 of Act VII of 1876 allow zamindars to have separate revenue accounts down to 3 pies, the disadvantage referred to cannot be removed by the passing of the present Bill. The existing system has saved Government much labour by removing many estates, whose revenue was less than one rupee and which were made revenue-free, from the revenue rolls.

Acts X and XI of 1859 and Acts VII and VIII of 1876 removed all the difficulties which were experienced in the management and the payment of the revenue of estates which had, since the time of the Permanent Settlement, come to be owned by a large number of co-sharers, claiming either by inheritance or under transfer. It is only those co-sharers who are rich and who have the largest number of *khamars* in an undivided estate that object to partition. But it will not be right, for their sake, to refuse partition to all land-owners.

Partition of estates with the help of civil courts is an expensive matter, and beyond the means of poor co-sharers. If the right of claiming partition through revenue courts is denied to such co-sharers, they will gradually lose their estates, and will be deprived of their only means of livelihood, while the realisation of their shares of the revenue will become difficult.

The present partition system, it is true, is increasing the number of boundary disputes. But this can be easily remedied by applying section 126 to every case of partition. No land-owner will refuse to bear the cost of raising pillars to demarcate his own boundaries.

44. The Estates Partition Bill, observes the *Pratihar* of the 8th May, will prove ruinous to the interests of small zamindars and talukdars. So long a tenure-holder has

PRATIHAR,
May 8th, 1896.

The Estates Partition Bill. enjoyed the right of claiming the partition of a common undivided estate, no matter how small the land revenue realisable from him. This has so long saved him from being ruined for the default or dereliction of one or more of his co-sharers. But the new Bill proposes to deny the right of partition to a tenure-holder where "the annual amount of land revenue for which the separate estate of any of the proprietors would, after partition, be liable, would not exceed one hundred rupees." This provision will press hard upon the poor middle class—the proprietors of small undivided estates. The Road Cess and the Public Demands Recovery Acts are already harassing these small proprietors, and let not another instrument of oppression be added to the list. There should be a strong protest made against this objectionable section of the Bill, and the British Indian Association should take the lead. It should mind the interests of the small as well as of the large proprietors.

HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1896.

45. The *Hitavadi* of the 8th May says that when Act XI of 1859 was passed, Bengal was far less advanced educationally than it is now. There were not then so many newspapers in the country, and few among the talukdars were men of education. Few in the far mufassal could then know anything of the notifications that were published in the *Calcutta Gazette* and of the notices that were stuck up on the walls of public offices. It is no wonder, then, that many talukdars should have failed to avail themselves of the security afforded them by that Act by getting their tenures registered. The heirs and representatives of the talukdars who then failed to register their tenures now find themselves in a position of great insecurity. As zamindars have little to lose—on the contrary, much to gain—from the sale of a subordinate tenure for arrears of revenue, they try to bring such tenures under the hammer. Is it not a duty of Government to remove the insecurity of these talukdars? Government can afford these talukdars security by a very simple amendment in section 11 of Act XI of 1859, namely, by omitting the words “when such tenures and forms have been duly registered under the provisions of this Act” at the end of exception (3) in the section.

If Government does not see its way to make this amendment, it should make a temporary provision similar to that in section 45 of the Act. The generous Sir Alexander Mackenzie and such members of the Bengal Council as have experience of mufassal affairs are requested to attend to this suggestion.

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 10th, 1896.

46. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 10th May has the following:—

The Estates Partition Bill.

It is we alone that have so long been pointing out the advisability of amending the existing law about the partition of estates, and we are glad to see that our criticism has not been entirely lost on the Government. Mr. Finucane has brought forward a Bill, proposing to amend the law relating to the partition of estates. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Mover observes that the primary and chief object of the Bill is to amend section 116 of the present Act—the most objectionable section in the whole law which formed the subject of our criticism. Section 88 of the new Bill is intended as an amendment of section 116 of the existing Act, and although it goes only a very little way towards the removal of the objections against the latter section, we must thank Mr. Finucane even for the little he has done for the good of the proprietors of estates.

A dangerous section, however, has been introduced in Mr. Finucane's Bill, to which we cannot but strongly object. According to this section, partition shall be refused if the separate estate of any of the proprietors would be liable for an annual amount of land revenue not exceeding Rs. 100. This will either make every separate estate, however small, pay land revenue exceeding Rs. 100, or will make partition of estates impossible. This will cause small proprietors of estates, whose number is by no means small in the country, great inconvenience and hardship. None of the reasons urged by Mr. Finucane in support of the section is strong. The objection that the multiplication of petty estates entails great multiplication of accounts and processes for collection is not of much importance. When there is no objection to keep separate *tauzi* registers for a parent estate and to keep an account of even a pice thereby necessitated, why should there be any objection to allow a partition of that estate on the ground of multiplication of accounts? Multiplication of estates has proved decidedly profitable to the Government by increasing the sale of court-fee stamps. It is a greater loss to the Government if the whole of the land revenue remains unrealised from an undivided estate, than if, after the partition of the parent estate, land revenue remains unrealised from five of the separate estates. At the same time there is likely to be five times as large a sale of court-fee stamps in the latter case as in the former.

There is absolutely no strength in the argument that multiplication of estates is bad for proprietors. The proprietor seeks partition because it is decidedly advantageous to him. In a common undivided estate rent is generally very low, and the tenant not only pays a low rent, but also enjoys the possession of more land than he pays rent for. The rent in a separate

estate is generally four times as high as that in an undivided estate. There being, moreover, many proprietors in the latter case, it is very easy for a tenant to enjoy the possession of, say, one hundred *bighas* of land whilst paying rent for, say, twenty-five *bighas* only. The proprietor is, therefore, injured in two ways: he gets low rents, and in some cases gets rents for a smaller quantity of land than is actually in the tenant's possession. The Government, too, has to suffer no little loss. It gets less road and other cesses than it would have done if the estate had undergone partition. If such estates are divided, rent is likely to increase two or three-fold. In Dacca the number of common undivided estates is very large, and this is the reason why the tenants there pay so very low rents. The Commissioner of the Dacca Division shows in his Administration Report for 1893-94 that a tenant in his division pays on an average only Rs. 2-12 in the shape of rent for one acre of land, while he earns from it no less than fifty rupees. This unfair distribution of the profit from land has proved ruinous to the Dacca landlords.

It is difficult to understand why multiplication of estates should be bad for tenants. It is, of course, quite clear that after the partition of an estate has been made, tenants will no longer be able to enjoy the unfair advantage of paying low rents and possessing more land than they pay rent for. But it is not certainly right that the Government should legalise what is no better than a deceit practised upon the proprietors of land. Generally speaking, a tenant is benefited by the partition of a common undivided estate. His position becomes better defined. He has no longer to pay rent to many landlords. He gets one master to serve. It is not, therefore, just and proper to refuse partition of an estate mentioned in section 10 on the lame ground that it will be bad for the tenants. Moreover, the Judges do not always appoint Managers for undivided estates, as provided in the Bengal Tenancy Act. Small estates cannot also afford to pay a manager. Partition by a civil suit is costly, and often impracticable. On all these grounds, therefore, partition of small estates should not be refused.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

47. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 5th May contrasts British Manipur policy with British Transvaal policy. When the old Tongal General was condemned to death, an effort was made to save his life, and even the Secretary of State was moved for a commutation of the sentence of death. But neither the British Government nor the British public relented, and the old General died a victim to the British revenge. In the Transvaal a number of British adventurers rebelled against the Government, and were condemned to death. This spread a consternation among the British public, and they demanded a commutation of the death sentence. President Kruger showed unprecedented clemency in commuting the death sentence passed on the prisoners. President Kruger has done in the case of the British rebels what the British Prime Minister could not do in the case of the Manipur rebels.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 5th, 1896.

48. The *General and Gauhari Asfi* of the 8th May says that either Maulvi Muhdi Ali, of Hyderabad, or Maulvi Syed Khaja Fakhruddin should be appointed Prime Minister of the Rampur State on the minor Nawab being vested with full power.

GENERAL AND
GAUHARI ASFI,
May 8th, 1896.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

49. Referring to the *Hitavadi's* strictures on the Police Inspector who sent a Hindu orphan to the "Foundling Asylum" in Elliott Road (see Report on Native Papers of 9th May 1896, paragraph 65), the *Navayuga*, a Christian paper, observes that the Christian community ought not to be held responsible or abused for the act of another person. The Christian asylum in question is aided by the Government, and the authorities in charge of it are bound to admit any orphan, be he a Hindu or a Musalman or a Christian, who is sent by the police. Prafulla Babu, who brought the case of the orphan to the notice of the police, ought to be thanked for his kindness, notwithstanding that he calls the Police Inspector's conduct into question. It is most probably he that lately

NAVAYUGA,
May 9th, 1896.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
May 10th, 1896.

paid a visit to the asylum and thanked the Lady Superintendent for the care and attention with which the orphan was being treated.

50. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 10th May has the following:—

Sir Charles Elliott honoured by the Edinburgh University.

Sir Charles Elliott has obtained the degree of LL.D. from the Edinburgh University in recognition of his learning. Sir Charles never lost an opportunity of displaying his learning while Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and filled the Secretariat with resolutions. The Pandit Sabha worshipped him for his learning, and ought to have given him a title. As it was owing to Secretary Risley that Sir Charles was able to make so much display of learning, the Edinburgh University should make him "Naib Doctor." The Pandit Sabha, too, should correct its error by giving Sir Charles the title of "সর্বজ্ঞবিদ্যোয়নি" (the chief among *subjantas*) and Naib Risley that of "অভাবদ্বন্দ্বিত" (the infallible master of words).

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 16th May 1896.